As on 31st March 2005, 2006 and 2007, the details of the total deposit and outstanding credit in Orissa, as reported by RBI, in respect of State Bank of India (SBI), UCO Bank and Andhra Bank are as under:

(Rs. lakh)

	2005		2006		2007	
Bank	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit
STATE BANK OF INDIA	887078	562473	1083957	760667	1380327	1036983
UCO BANK	264591	183673	294655	235367	328979	271157
ANDHRA BANK	135280	41716	145209	49925	188609	49973

Note: Data for the year 2007 is provisional
Source: BSR-1 and 2 surveys

Registration of anchor advisers

3788. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the private TV channels, engaging anchor advisers to guide small investors in stock markets, ensure that such anchor advisers comply with the existing disclosure norms for investment advisors;

(b) whether stock market regulators like UKs Financial Service Authority and the Security Exchange Commission (SEC) of the USA require such anchors advisors to register with the regulatory authority and comply with all disclosure norms; and

(c) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will examine the adaptability of SEC of the US for framing its guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) SEBI has informed that it does not regulate anchor advisers, hence no disclosure norms are prescribed for the same. As per the information available on SEC website, investment advisers are regulated under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

Suggestion to cut interest rates

3789. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received suggestions from various intellectual/companies to cut interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government to the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Determination of interest rates on advances and deposits by Scheduled Commerical Banks (SCBs) is within the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All suggestions received by the Government in this respect are forwarded to the RBI for consideration.

With effect from 22nd October 1997, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given freedom to commercial banks to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with the prior approval of their respective Board of Directors/Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). As such, the rates of interest on deposits are determined by the banks themselves.

Effective from October 18, 1994, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakhs, including the housing loans and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Board of Directors subject to Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLR) and spread guidelines. In order to enhance transparency in banks pricing of their loan products, banks have been advised to fix their BPLR after taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin and ensure that the BPLR truly reflects the actual cost. Given the prevailing credit market in India and the need to continue with concessionality for small borrowers, the practice of treating BPLR as the ceiling for loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs continues. However, Banks are free to determine the rates of interest without reference to BPLR and regardless of the size in respect of loans for purchase of consumer durables, loans to individuals against shares and debentures/bonds, other non-priority sector personal loans, etc.

Banks can also offer loans to exporters or other creditworthy borrowers, including public enterprises, at below BPLR on the basis of a transparent and objective policy approved by their respective Boards.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements

3790. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to review the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements to curb speculative profiteers from evading tax; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Whenever it comes to the notice of the Government that there is improper use of the provisions of any Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), measures to review that DTAA are taken in consultation with the treaty partner.

Default Retail Debts

3791. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that default Retail Debts amounting to hundreds of crores have been transferred by private/Government banks to Asset Reconstruction Companies;

(b) what is the actual total amount of retail assets gone bad, transferred to Asset Reconstruction Companies;